## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A method for transmitting packet types of packets, the method comprising:

receiving a packet having symbols;

identifying a packet type of the packet;

transmitting a synchronization symbol that corresponds to the identified packet type, wherein the transmitted synchronization symbol provides synchronization information and wherein each packet type has a different synchronization symbol; and

transmitting the symbols of the received packet.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the symbols of the packet include in-band symbols and the synchronization symbols are out-of-band symbols.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the in-band symbols are transition optimized and the out-of-band synchronization symbols are not transition optimized.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the synchronization symbol is transmitted before transmitting the symbols of the packet.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the packet has a header with a field that indicates packet type and the identifying of the packet type includes checking the field of the header that indicates packet type.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the packet types include a data packet.

2

7.    (Original)    The method of claim 1 wherein the packet types include a control packet.

8.    (Original)    The method of claim 1 wherein the symbols are transmitted to a switch network.

9.    (Original)    A method for identifying packet types of packets of symbols, the method comprising:

> receiving a synchronization symbol indicating a packet type, each packet type having a different synchronization symbol;
>
> receiving a packet of symbols; and
>
> indicating that the received packet of symbols has the packet type of the received synchronization symbol.

10.    (Original)    The method of claim 9 wherein the symbols of the packets include in-band symbols and the synchronization symbols are out-of-band symbols.

11.    (Original)    The method of claim 10 wherein the in-band symbols are transition optimized and the out-of-band synchronization symbols are not transition optimized.

12.    (Original)    The method of claim 9 wherein the synchronization symbol is received before the symbols of the packet are received.

13.    (Original)    The method of claim 9 wherein the packet types include a data packet.

14.    (Original)    The method of claim 9 wherein the packet types include a control packet.

15.    (Original)    The method of claim 9 wherein the symbols are received from a switch.

16.    (Original)    A communications device for transmitting packet types of packets, comprising:

>    an identification component that identifies a packet type of a packet of symbols; and

>    a transmission component that transmits a synchronization symbol that corresponds to the identified packet type, the transmitted synchronization symbol providing synchronization information and each packet type having a different synchronization symbol, and that transmits the symbols of the packet.

17.    (Original)    The communications device of claim 16 wherein the symbols of the packet include in-band symbols and the synchronization symbols are out-of-band symbols.

18.    (Original)    The communications device of claim 17 wherein the in-band symbols are transition optimized and the out-of-band synchronization symbols are not transition optimized.

19.    (Original)    The communications device of claim 16 wherein the synchronization symbol is transmitted before transmitting the symbols of the packet.

20.    (Original)    The communications device of claim 16 wherein the packet has a header with a field that indicates packet type and the identification component checks the field of the header that indicates packet type.

4

21.    (Original)    The communications device of claim 16 wherein the packet types include a data packet.

22.    (Original)    The communications device of claim 16 wherein the packet types include a control packet.

23.    (Original)    The communications device of claim 16 wherein the symbols are transmitted to a switch network.

24.    (Original)    The communications device of claim 16 wherein the communications device is part of a storage area network.

5